

Rome 27 June Wp 1

My dear Tom

As Charley in a very clever note written in Italian has reminded me that I am fast approaching the patriarchal age, if not already in it!! so I think you'll be interested in knowing what I myself feel on such a touching reminder

Maria did not give me so cheerful an account ^{of} you as in her former report & I fear that the same cold damp weather which we have ^{had} here & from which I suffer; also affects & prevents you going down to your garden

I was so unlucky as on the 1st to go
to my mountain Toffa in the hope of
taking some baths as the hot weather
here promised, tho' not from illness
but merely from the anticipation of
it; when to behold I found the
depth of winter & was obliged to return
after a fortnight quit thro'd & decrified
with the wet & cold, but some warm
weather & baths of simple water have
helped to bolster me up somewhat so
that I may possibly be strong enough
for the coming events - Another mishap
befell me, I was looking hastily to a fine
view when I stumbled against a stone &
fell spunk on my face - yet withal I

fell like a gentleman & the harm did
not seem much but it has rather affected
my nerves & I now walk with an ugly
caution & never look ^{up} at the heavens

But as I have got my painting to look
at & am busily at work, so I trust
to pick up soon

As regards my patriotic that age I
am glad to assure you that I have
no fears or shrinking - I cheerfully
bide my time as death has so often
stared me in the face & whenever
it may be ^{my} will of God in his merciful
Providence & bounteousness I trust
I shall be found ready to sink
calmly into this holy keeping - I
trust I may have performed my part
in that singular destiny which was
in

out - I hope when you get this you will
have got the warm weather & that poor
Tom will be revived by the fine air of
summer which I can see he greatly wants
for I am much set up by the warmth.

Miss Novello has left me at my desire
so now I am all alone & very happy
with nothing to trouble me not even the
theas! - Mr King honored me with two invites
I went to both, but my ^{very} old breeches
(now 11 years) at last failed in the seat &
I returned home nicely aired, but now
I have new ones - I can't bear to spend
money in such a way & I still have
the the cloaths of 10 years ago, except these
ingrate full galling skins, but I shall
make a waistcoat of them & keep up
my dandyism -

My dinner is nearly ready & my
appetite quite - I will write soon to
dear Tom Your loving brother Joe